

**Diocese of Pittsburgh**

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May 4, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Saint Ferdinand, Saint Gregory and Holy Redeemer Parishes:

It is my sad duty to share with you that I have placed your parish chaplain, Father James Young, on administrative leave pending an investigation of inappropriate contact with adult women.

Removing Father Young from ministry does not imply guilt. It is intended to safeguard the course of justice while preserving the rights of everyone involved, including both the persons who made the allegation and the person against whom an allegation has been made.

When an allegation of this nature has been made, diocesan policy mandates specific procedures, including bringing the information before the Independent Review Board, which will advise me on whether he is suitable for ministry.

While he is on administrative leave, Father Young is not allowed to engage in public ministry at your parish or any place else. He cannot administer the sacraments, dress in clerical attire or identify himself as a priest. If a determination is made that Father Young did what he is accused of, those restrictions will become permanent. If it is determined that the allegation is unfounded, all that is possible will be done to restore Father Young's reputation and return him to ministry.

Anyone who has been harmed by someone representing the Church should inform the Diocese so that we can protect others and offer healing. Please contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator at 1-888-808-1235. You can also call the Pennsylvania state abuse hotline at 1-800-932-0313.

Recognizing that this is a painful time for everyone concerned, I ask that you join me in praying for the persons who have brought this allegation forward, for Father Young, for those who will help make a determination in this matter and for me, your bishop. We need to support one another in the days ahead. Please know how much I am praying for you, the faithful, during this difficult time. May our words, our deeds and our prayers always reflect the healing love of Jesus.

Grateful for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am,

Your brother in Christ,

+ *David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh